

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract originally appearing on page 30 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides ~~rate-rate~~-controlling membranes for controlled drug delivery devices that are stable over time and exhibit more predictable and consistent membrane functionality. According to another aspect, the membranes have enhanced permeability. According to the invention, the ~~rate-rate~~-controlling membrane of a controlled drug delivery device is subjected to a ~~pre~~-pretreatment annealing process wherein it is subjected to an elevated temperature for a predetermined time period and subsequently cooled to ambient conditions before incorporation into a controlled drug delivery device.

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